

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending.

1. Applicants have filed a Petition for Acceptance of an Unintentionally Delayed Claim for Priority. In conjunction with the Petition, Applicants have amended the cross reference to related application section of the present specification and request acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority to U.S. Patent Application Number 09/992,035, filed November 23, 2001, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Number 60/252,820, filed November 22, 2000. The present independent claims derived priority from the provisional application and have an effective filing date of November 22, 2000.

2. The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) for including reference characters not mentioned in the description. The specification has been amended to include the reference characters identified by the PTO with respect to FIG. 1B. Replacement Drawings for FIG. 9 and FIG. 10 are attached. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

3. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16-18, 20, 22-25, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iliff (U.S. 5,935,060). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Present claim 1 is directed to a method of providing a workflow interface. The method includes receiving a baseline template associated with a medical workflow step, receiving automated decision support data associated with the medical workflow step, integrating the baseline template and the automated decision support data into an interface page associated with the medical workflow step, and initiating presentation of the interface page on a display of an electronic device.

Claim 12 is directed to a device configured to display a user interface associated with a step in a medical workflow. The user interface includes a baseline template integrated with automated decision support data. The baseline template and the automated decision support data are associated with a step in the medical workflow. The automated decision support data is based on medical finding data.

Claim 23 is directed to a system including a processor and a storage medium. The storage medium stores instructions operable to direct a processor to retrieve a baseline template associated with a step in a medical workflow, to retrieve automated decision support data associated with the step in the medical workflow, to integrate the baseline template in the automated decision support data into an interface page associated with the step in the medical workflow, and to initiate presentation of the interface page to a user interface device.

Turning to the cited reference, Iliff discloses a system and method for providing computerized knowledge based medical diagnostic advice utilizing a list based processing method of generating and executing diagnostic scripts. (Iliff, Abstract). The list based processing is a method of diagnosing diseases by arranging diseases, symptoms, and questions into a set of nested disease, symptom and question lists in such a way that the list can be processed to generate a dialogue with the patient. A list based processing system organizes medical knowledge into formal structured lists or arrays and then applies a special algorithm to those lists to automatically select the next question. The responses to the questions lead to more questions and ultimately to a diagnosis. (Iliff, column 1, line 67-column 2, line 13). List based processing begins with lists of diseases, symptoms and questions that are processed into a playable script using a list based script development tool. The encoded script files are played back or run for a patient, display question text and wait for a reply based on a patient's response. The tool updates disease scores and continues with the next symptom. The script stops when some condition set by the author is reached such as the first disease being ruled in as a diagnosis for all diseases having been considered. (Iliff, column 6, lines 39-67). As such, Iliff is directed to a list based logic system for sequentially presenting questions and is not a template-based system.

In contrast, claim 1 is directed to a method, which includes receiving a baseline template and an automated decision support data and integrating the baseline template and the automated decision support data. Claim 12 recites a user interface comprising a baseline template integrated with automated decision support data and claim 23 includes a storage medium that includes instructions operable to retrieve a baseline template automated decision support data and to integrate the baseline template and the automated decision support data into an interface page. Iliff fails to teach or even remotely suggest use of a template based system for collecting medical data.

In particular, Applicants have discovered that logic tree systems, such as that disclosed by Iliff, are poorly suited for physician workflow. In particular, Iliff focuses on providing patients with a logical stream of questions and answers. However, such directed systems are inappropriate for use by physicians and other healthcare professionals.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16-18, 20, 22-25 and 28 are not anticipated by Iliff. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection.

4. Claims 4-5, 7, 9-11, 13-15, 19, 21, 26-27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iliff in view of Walker et al. (U.S. Publication Number 2002/0170565). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Walker et al. has a filing date of March 28, 2001 and a publication date of November 21, 2002. The priority date of the present application as herein amended predates the filing date of Walker et al. As such, Walker et al. does not qualify as prior art, rendering the rejection moot. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection.

Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3797.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 1.22.08

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